



Republican
National
Committee

Counsel's Office

April 5, 2004

Ms. Dawn M. Odrowski
Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 219-3923

Re: MUR 5428
Republican Party of Arkansas

Dear Ms. Odrowski:

Per our telephone conversation last week, attached please find a designation of counsel form from the Republican Party of Arkansas ("RPA") in the matter of MUR 5428.

As we discussed over the telephone, the RPA is committed to producing as much relevant documentation as they can find, and expeditiously resolving this matter through conciliation.

As you must be aware, the previous administration of the RPA unfortunately did not respond to the Commission's audit report, which is the basis for the current allegations and assumptions in the proposed conciliation agreement. Please know that over the past few months, largely as a result of these FEC issues involving the previous RPA administration, the RPA has:

- Elected a new Chairman who has made it a top priority to both resolve this issue and ensure ongoing compliance with all aspects of the FECA;
- Terminated the person in previously in charge of FEC Reporting and retained an accountant with FEC reporting experience;
- Appointed a new Treasurer committed to FEC compliance;
- Appointed a new General Counsel who has recently attended legal compliance seminars regarding FEC issues and is in the process of

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cataloguing RPA documents from 1999 forward for the purpose of production to the Commission in this MUR and any future audits.

These efforts all are indicative of a new spirit and attitude regarding FEC compliance by the RPA. Unfortunately, there are certain realities that the RPA must also deal with. First and foremost is that the RPA is almost broke and could not afford a law firm to represent it in this matter – hence why the RNC is offering legal assistance. Second is that, notwithstanding ongoing and heroic efforts by the new RPA General Counsel to collect and review documents potentially responsive to this MUR, this is nonetheless an arduous and time-consuming process.

Although due to past actions of the RPA I would certainly understand skepticism on the part of the Commission regarding assurances of responsiveness and compliance from the RPA, I nonetheless want to make clear that the RPA is now taking this matter *very* seriously and will make all good faith efforts to respond to this MUR and conciliate with the Commission. With this in mind, the RPA must respectfully ask for a sixty (60) day extension of time to respond to the MUR. This extension is necessary because any response on behalf of RPA will be fact intensive and necessitate extensive document review and production. As a gesture of good faith, the RPA is willing to toll the statute of limitations for any amount of time granted as an extension by the Commission to reply to this matter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 863-8638 if there is additional information that I can provide to you regarding this request for an extension of time.

Sincerely,



Charles R. Spies

Enclosure

CC: Barbara W. Webb
General Counsel to RPA
Fax: (501) 379-1701

STATEMENT OF DESIGNATION OF COUNSEL

MUR 5248

NAME OF COUNSEL: Charlie Spies

FIRM: Republican National Committee

ADDRESS: 310 First Street, SE
Washington, DC 20037

TELEPHONE: (202) 863-8638

FAX: (202) 863-8654

The above-named individual is hereby designated as my counsel and is authorized to receive any notifications and other communications from the Commission and to act on my behalf before the Commission.

3-24-04
Date

Maui Holden
Signature

RESPONDENT'S NAME: Republican Party of Arkansas

ADDRESS: 1201 West 6th Street
Little Rock, AR
72201

TELEPHONE: HOME (501) 372-7301

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